

285.1773995

M314h



LIBRARY U. OF I. URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

A HISTORY OF
The First Presbyterian Church
OF ANNA, ILLINOIS

1866

:-:

1946

EIGHTY YEARS

MEMBERS COME AND MEMBERS GO
BUT THE CHURCH GOES ON FOREVER

No Doubt, Forever Is a Long Time,
But So Is Eighty Years

We Live Our Lives and Think Our Thoughts, and
Comes the Time When We May Put Some
of Those Thoughts Into Words

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

For any quotations used, due credit is hereby given. Also to Mrs. C. H. Wiley and the late Mrs. Abbie Cook for information secured from a church history compiled by them some years ago.

Compiled and Edited
by
WALTER C. MANGOLD

GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL

Below are the names of the ministers who have served the church over the period of 80 years.

The Rev. D. Dimond.....	April 1866-April 1867
The Rev. J. M. Faris.....	April 1867-1870
The Rev. E. L. Davies.....	Aug. 1872-July 1874
The Rev. W. B. Minton.....	July 1875-1877
The Rev. E. L. Davies.....	Oct. 1877-1879
The Rev. J. W. Knott.....	Dec. 1879-1882
The Rev. W. W. Faris.....	May 1883-1891
The Rev. W. B. Minton.....	March 1891-1898
The Rev. A. J. Berger.....	March 1898-1901
The Rev. W. W. Faris, D. D.....	July 1901-1903
The Rev. J. R. E. Craighead.....	Dec. 1904-1910
The Rev. E. W. McClusky.....	Dec. 1910-1914
The Rev. J. R. Henry.....	April 1914-1920
The Rev. J. H. Gardner.....	April 1921-1927
The Rev. J. N. Elliott, D. D.....	Dec. 1927-1931
The Rev. R. C. Patterson.....	Dec. 1932-1945
The Rev. Joseph R. Laughlin.....	Sept. 1945 and since

MEMBERS COME AND MEMBERS GO

On the reverse side of this page is an excellent picture of the original church with the entrance as shown on South street.

The length of the building was about one hundred feet, heated with two large stoves, and the seats near these stoves were much favored on very cold days.

The light came from at least twelve very large windows with circular tops.

The pulpit was in the rear about where the present Church School meets and was three steps above the main floor. The choir was located to the left as you faced the pulpit, and two steps above the floor.

There were three aisles, one in the center of the room and two next to the outer walls. The Primary Department used the pulpit, while other classes were distributed conveniently through the room.

The pews were hand made and none too comfortable, but were like those in most churches of the day for the factory-made, more comfortable pews of today were not available at the time.

Recently, when a present member of the church was shown the photograph from which this printed cut was made, he immediately asked, "What church is that?"

This would, no doubt, be the question asked by all but a few of the present church members, showing how true is the caption at the top of this page.



CUT OF FIRST CHURCH
1869—1897

THERE IS THE CHURCH AND THERE IS THE
STEEPLE; OPEN THE DOORS AND THERE
ARE THE PEOPLE

In considering the matter of a church history, events seem to group themselves around the two church buildings that have served the congregations over this period of eighty years. The first building housed the church for a period of about thirty years, and the first part of this history will apply to that time.

In April, 1866, some 16 or more people came together and at that meeting the First Presbyterian Church of Anna was started. Soon after the Rev. A. T. Norton representing Synod came to Anna and completed the organization, with the following persons as charter members:

Mr. Virgil Beale, Mrs. Kate Beale, Dr. F. S. Dodds, Mrs. Ellen Willard, Mrs. Mary Dodds, Mr. S. B. Marks, Mrs. Marks, Dr. J. G. Underwood, Mrs. Jennie Shick, Mrs. R. J. Phillis, Mrs. M. Reardon, Mrs. H. L. Foster, Mrs. Mary Slater, Mrs. Sarah Ann Finch, Mrs. Mary Short and Mrs. Almira Davidson.

On the first Board of Elders were Virgil Beale, J. D. Newbegin, J. H. Ryder and possibly others. No record is found of the appointment of other boards at the time, for the early records are quite meager.

. . . FOR YE BECAME FOLLOWERS OF THE CHURCH

The first services were held in the M. E. Church of this city but later an empty store room was found and used as a meeting place; but it is evident that even at that early date, the congregation was planning for its own church home. Before the year closed a lot was purchased on the corner of Jefferson and South streets, and the building may have been completed by the close of the year 1869.

The Rev. David Dimond was serving the church as Stated Supply, and was the first minister to occupy the pulpit in the new church that seems to have cost about \$4,000.00.

THEY . . . FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Any history of this church would not be complete without some mention of Mr. and Mrs. James D. Newbegin who gave so much of what they had to their church.

No doubt they were of English stock but spent many years in New Zealand and South Africa before coming to Anna.

Their years here were spent on a small farm a few miles from the city, but nothing seemed to keep them away from their church, and they were the first to arrive on the Sabbath day. In winter Mr. Newbegin built the fires (and later rang the bell) while Mrs. Newbegin tidied up the rooms, and then played the organ for Sabbath School. Mr. Newbegin was superintendent for many years.

. . . UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

Records are none to plentiful concerning this young church, but there is no question but that it progressed, as indicated by the following passage taken from an early music history of the city.

“The first organized choir in Anna was at the Presbyterian Church about 1869. Mr. Cyrus Shick was chorister, Mrs. Davie organist, and Captain Stinson, J. K. Walton, Mrs. McVain and later, Mrs. Lufkin and Dr. and Mrs. Dodds were members.”

The church had improved in numbers although exact figures are not obtainable, but activities such as Prayer Meeting, Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies are mentioned.

The Aid Society seems to date from the late 70's and carried on the many efforts of such an organization. However, the members must have realized that the day would come when the congregation would outgrow present quarters, for when that day did come, they had accumulated a considerable sum to help in the building of a new church.

Church Socials were popular in those days for both the old and young, and were well attended. They were evening affairs and were held in the summer months, on the larger lawns of the church members.

A small wire was stretched from tree to tree and Chinese Lanterns hung upon it, using a candle for the light, and when a lantern caught fire there was great excitement for the young folks.

The second period of the occupancy of the first building (1882-1897) found a change in pastors, for The Rev. W. W. Faris was installed in 1883.

. . . UPON THIS ROCK

However, he was not new to the community since his father The Rev. J. M. Faris had served the church at an earlier time.

The Rev. W. W. Faris evidently came to Anna with a dual purpose in mind, that of serving the church and also the founding of a school of higher standing than could then be found in this part of the state.

In 1883 a Christian Endeavor Society was put in operation and it was well attended by the young people of the church, and continued until other activities for the young people replaced it.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

. . . SON OF MAN IS COME TO SAVE.

In 1883 a Missionary Society was organized with some 15 members and was separate from other woman's organizations, having its own staff of officers, and keeping minutes of all meetings. Dues of 10 cents per member per month were collected. However, in later years the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies were combined in the Women's Club which is very active to this day.

The last wedding ceremony performed in the church was that of Rev. Wallace Faris and Miss Ellen Asper, and soon after, this young couple embarked for China where they served as missionaries for many years.

UNION ACADEMY

Soon after Dr. Faris became pastor of the church in 1883, he began to interest others in a plan for an institution for higher Christian education, and as a result of his efforts Union Academy was founded that year. There were no accredited high schools in this part of the state at that time, and schools where students could be fitted for college were not available.

The institution met with immediate favor and large sized classes were formed that fall in an old building (no doubt the first schoolhouse built in Anna) in the fair grounds.

The room was so crowded that students were permitted to use the various stands on the grounds for study when the weather permitted, and in cold weather many studied at home and came to the room only for recitations.

During the next year, however, a more commodious building was erected on South Main street, and later Benton Hall and Willard Hall, situated on several acres donated by Mr. C. M. Willard, became the school plant.

However, in later years with the advent of high schools with wonderful equipment, this and other such schools had to step aside, but many students went from these schools into the world greatly benefited by the influence of the Christian men and women who were their instructors.

THE NEW CHURCH

. . . The Rains Descended and the Floods Came.

When Mr. C. M. Willard passed away in 1893, it was learned that he had left \$5,000.00 to be used for a new church structure and this together with the \$2,000.00 accumulated by the Ladies' Aid and other added gifts and donations caused the congregation to look forward and plan for the time when the new building could be a reality.

Early in 1897 a building committee was appointed and the plan furnished by a firm of architects in Grand Rapids, Mich., was finally adopted. While some details were changed as told later, the outside dimensions and profiles, and the interior arrangements were just as the building shows today.

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION . . .

Other than in large communities, few buildings will be found more massive and strongly built than is this church. The footings are four feet wide and very deep, and from the footings the foundation walls are three feet thick, tapered to two feet at the window sill line on the first floor, and two feet thick to the top of the highest gable.

All the face stones in the building were first placed on a heavy bench then squared, then with chisel and hammer the stone cutter faced the edge only, leaving the center as nature had made it. Since this limestone is very hard, the task was a slow one; however, the dark stone has not discolored from age as does the lighter limestones.

I GO TO THE HILLS FROM WHENCE COMETH MY STRENGTH

The original plan called for stone to the first floor, and red brick with stone trim for the super structure, but there was one person in particular on the committee who stood very firmly for an all stone church, and that was Mr. H. P. Tuthill.

The added cost had to be considered and some insisted on brick for economy's sake, but Mr. Tuthill was not discouraged and finally proposed, for a certain sum to build of stone instead of brick, and his proposal was accepted. So "to the hills" some three miles away went the quarrymen with their heavy sledges, drills and other quarry tools. Later came to the grounds, the horsedrawn wagons loaded with stone, and through the "underground" went the word that masons and stone cutters were wanted at Anna, and they began to arrive until fifteen or twenty were on the job where they worked for about eight months, then faded away. The justification of all this is the beautiful, massive building that so many admire, and the fact that for nearly fifty years congregations have enjoyed its comforts.

There is one monolithic stone in the building, 10 feet long, 12 inches thick with a 14-inch face.

Some miles east of the city was a peculiar sand stone quarry, where the stone could be split like wood, but smoother, and the steps to the west entrance came from this quarry.

THE PATINA OF OLD WOOD

Another matter for the Building Committee to decide after the walls were up and the roof on, was what material to use for the inside trim.

Oak was favored by some, but there was a wood just becoming popular for such work and that was the Louisiana cypress of the south. Many such trees, six, seven and eight feet in diameter were then standing there in the swamps, and from such trees came the interior trim for the church.

Father Time is a wonderful artist but like all artists is temperamental and works slow or fast according to his whim.

Every year about October, he paints all the leaves in the forest, and does it in a few weeks, but give Him an acorn and he may take four hundred years to grow a beautiful oak tree. The cypress wood in the church has never been touched by paint or stain; only the brush of Time has been used.

LIFT UP THINE EYES . . .

Be seated in the Sanctuary, lift your eyes to the six beautiful arches and the dark panels between, and one can imagine if stroked gently, it would have the feel of a piece of very old velvet or satin.

Like the white pine of the north, Louisiana cypress such as was used in the church can no longer be obtained, only the small second growth trees remain.

. . . AS THE RAINBOW IN THE DAY OF RAIN

The large Art or Cathedral Glass windows besides giving light, add much to the beauty of the Sanctuary, and to the peace of mind of the congregations.

The large window on the westerly side of the church is a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Willard, who did so much to make the present church building possible.

JESUS HOMNIUM SALVATOR (Jesus Savior of Mankind)

The upper part or transom of this window is not the original, as, some years ago a windstorm wrecked the transom, and to strengthen it against future storms, heavy wood bars were placed through the center.

In the center of the original was a cross some three feet in height with the initials, I. H. S., around the cross, but the wood bars eliminated the cross and the accompanying initials.

The window toward the east bears the insignia C. E. for the Christian Endeavor Society, which gave way later to the present young people's organizations.

(There are those who consider this window the most beautiful of the three.)

A figure of the Christ was to have been produced in the window over the choir loft, but was unsatisfactory when completed, and was finally omitted.

The present windows there came from the loft of Jacoby and Speis, Saint Louis, Mo.

THE ARTIST GOES TO NATURE FOR INSPIRATION

Since those who collaborated in making the interior of the church pleasing were artists, it seems fair that they have, at least, brief mention.

Such men of 50 years ago were those who used only stained or cathedral glass for their colors and, working in enormous atteliers, created the beautiful tapestry-like designs to be seen in the three large windows.

Each piece of opaque glass, whether large or small, is set in a frame of soft lead, and with such pieces they wove wonderful flowers and patterns, all harmoniously blended in the artist's conception of the complete picture.

Such artists seem to be passing for, while fifty years ago there were three such lofts in St. Louis, it is said there are none today.

The artistry of Father Time has been mentioned, but another artist, a little man with snow white hair, wearing strong glasses to aid his failing sight, also enters the picture.

On the detail sheets that were a part of the plans, was shown a considerable amount of carving, and these details were meticulously carried out by the milling company, as was true of everything they furnished, since every item showed clear of any defect, and there was never any shrinkage even in the widest panel.

THE ARTIST . . .

After the mill work was all in place, a letter from the milling company came telling of their rather amusing experience in securing a wood carver.

While they had no such person in their employment while estimating the job, they thought it would not be difficult to secure one. So when ready for this work to be done, they called their New Orleans office, with a later answer that there was none such person in the city.

They tried other milling centers in the south with no success, but later a letter from an employment agency in Chicago suggested they try New York City.

Came the day when the little man with white hair carrying a tool roll under his arm entered the office and announced he was from New York and had come to do the wood carving, and his work is shown in the four Capitals from which the arches spring, and on the panels and graceful posts that surround the choir loft, the organ and the chancel.

Possibly these people have all passed away, but with artistic minds and patient hands they have left their memorials in the church, and through the ages to come, their handiwork will never grow old.

. . . FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

It is said that age improves the quality of a good bell. If this be true then the bell in the present church should be one of the best, for while a bell is not mentioned in the early records, it is known that this is the original bell, and is evident that it was first hung before the original church was completed late in 1869.

Estimating conservatively that the bell has rung five times each week for its evident lifetime, then not less than 20,000 times in those years it has called its people to the church.

When we think about a church bell we must decide that it is a remarkable individual, and sets a shining example for those whom it calls to worship; for the bell never misses a service and is always on time. It is very democratic since it not only calls its members, but tells everyone within sound of its voice that it is "church time".

The bell never speaks in a fretful or complaining tone, but is always good natured, polite and cheerful.

However, there are times when the bell speaks slowly and hesitatingly and its tones are muted; for it knows that someone is passing below for the last time and the bell misses its friends. But on the next Sabbath Day, forgetting its sorrow, it will ring out strong and clear again, telling the community that "this is the Lord's Day".

. . . I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE

The present church, with a seating capacity of about 500 on the first floor, was completed, except the basement, late in 1898. The present organ was installed then, and at that time was one of the few pipe organs in this part of the state.

The cost of the new building to that time was about \$16,500.00 and soon after was dedicated, "free from debt." This was largely due to the efforts of Rev. A. J. Berger who served the church as stated supply for three years, who saw the building completed, occupied and paid for, then quietly asked the congregation to release him.

An early event that filled every available seat in the church was an organ recital given by Mr. Alfred G. Robyn, one of the best known organists in Saint Louis, assisted by the following vocalists of Anna:

Mr. H. E. Lufkin, Mrs. C. H. Wiley, Mrs. Minor McCracken, Mrs. Oliver Alden and Miss Bouton, Mr. E. B. Walton, Mrs. Geo. L. Spire and Mr. John Church.

The funds derived from the recital were added to the "organ fund" that had been accumulating for some time.

The Rev. W. W. Faris returned to the church in 1901 and the membership then was about 250.

The first wedding in the present church was that of Dr. Samuel Walton and Miss Sibyl Parks. Dr. Walton practiced dentistry in Chicago for many years.

. . . I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH

At the time the present church was occupied it was heated with two warm air furnaces, and these with the many heavy oak posts used to support the floor above reduced the space in the basement very materially. During the early pastorate of the Rev. J. H. Gardner, 1921 to 1927, the present modern conditions in the basement were made possible at a cost of \$3,000.00 and a steam heating plant was included, and a few years ago, a stoker was added.

All the funds were not on hand so more than \$1,000.00 was borrowed, and this debt remained unpaid until after the Rev. R. C. Patterson (1932-1945) was installed. Then this debt was cancelled.

Dr. J. R. Henry (1914-1920) was pastor during World War I and was granted leave by the congregation to offer his services to Y. M. C. A. but the war ceased before he sailed.

The present manse, South and High streets, was purchased soon after Dr. Henry's arrival, the purchase price being \$4,000.00 and it has been recently reconditioned at an expense of more than \$1,000.00.

About the time the present church building was started, the congregation owned a cottage that was used as a manse, but this was sold and the funds used in the erection of the present structure.

I WILL SING A NEW SONG . . .

While it is true that even in the early days of the church the music was outstanding, with the advent of a pipe organ the productions of the choir would have been a credit to any church in the state.

Oliver Alden, organist for over 40 years, was a musician of ability not only at the organ but vocally as well.

E. B. Walton's beautiful tenor voice was for many years a joy and comfort to the congregations.

W. E. Taylor directed the choir for almost as long, and sang many of the bass solos. These and many others contributed much to the high quality of the music of the church.

At Christmas and Easter times the congregation could always look forward to unusual musical programs, and with cantatas and other musical features sung by thirty or more matured voices, they were amply rewarded.

Mr. H. E. Lufkin produced the sacred opera "David the Shepherd Boy" at one time, and most of the voices came from this choir, but for lack of stage space it was not given in the church.

In the family of the Rev. P. H. Kroh there were four children, all of whom were blessed with remarkable voices. All at some time were members of the choir.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S CLUB

During the early years of the pastorate of Dr. J. R. Henry the Men's Club came into being. The first meetings were held in the homes of its members, but soon the membership outgrew such meeting places and the church basement has been its home since.

This organization is very democratic since membership has not been restricted to those who affiliate with the Presbyterian Church, for there are members from most of the other churches of the city, and many who are not closely connected with any church.

While the club is largely a social group, it has sponsored many commendable things as, Father and Son Banquets, entertaining the A-J High School football team, and members of the Wau Wau Taug Club.

It meets once each month when the members prepare and serve the meal, always followed by a program, most often a speaker, and it enjoys group singing, conducted by a member, at every meeting.

The club seems to have attracted attention throughout the state, as many inquiries have come from other churches concerning its activities.

PRESBYTERIAN GUILD

It had its beginning in a Sabbath School class of young matrons, and has a membership of about twenty-five today.

It meets once each month in the home of a member where they enjoy a "fetch and carry" dinner followed by a program built around Bible study, and the formulation of plans whereby it may be of assistance in the programs of the Church School or of the pastor.

While not a money making group it has sponsored Mother and Daughter Banquets, pays nominal dues, and any accumulated funds are used for some worthwhile purpose.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

. . . and Let Her Own Works Praise Her

Several years ago the women's activities of the church were pooled in the above named organization, maintaining a membership of over one hundred with accomplishments that are most remarkable and a sustained interest in their affairs that never seems to lapse.

Generous amounts are set aside for missions and other benevolent purposes, and should some emergency arise in the affairs of the church calling for funds, their response is remarkable.

A few years ago when the steam boiler had to be replaced, they not only responded, but added a stoker for good measure.

A few months ago, when the trustees realized that the Manse needed rehabilitating, they gave of their time and substance toward the completion of a good work.

They maintain an excellent business organization with several departments and a vice-president at the head of each. A secretary, treasurer and historian keep all records in the best of order.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Dennis Hindman; vice-presidents, Mrs. W. L. Lingle, Mrs. Harry Bizzell, Mrs. Paul Smith; secretary, Mrs. Witt Venerable; treasurer, Miss Beulah Seay; historian, Mrs. C. H. Wiley.

In the years that have passed, many women of the church have given of their time and efforts to furtherance of the splendid achievements of this organization.

. . . SING UNTO HIM WITH AN INSTRUMENT

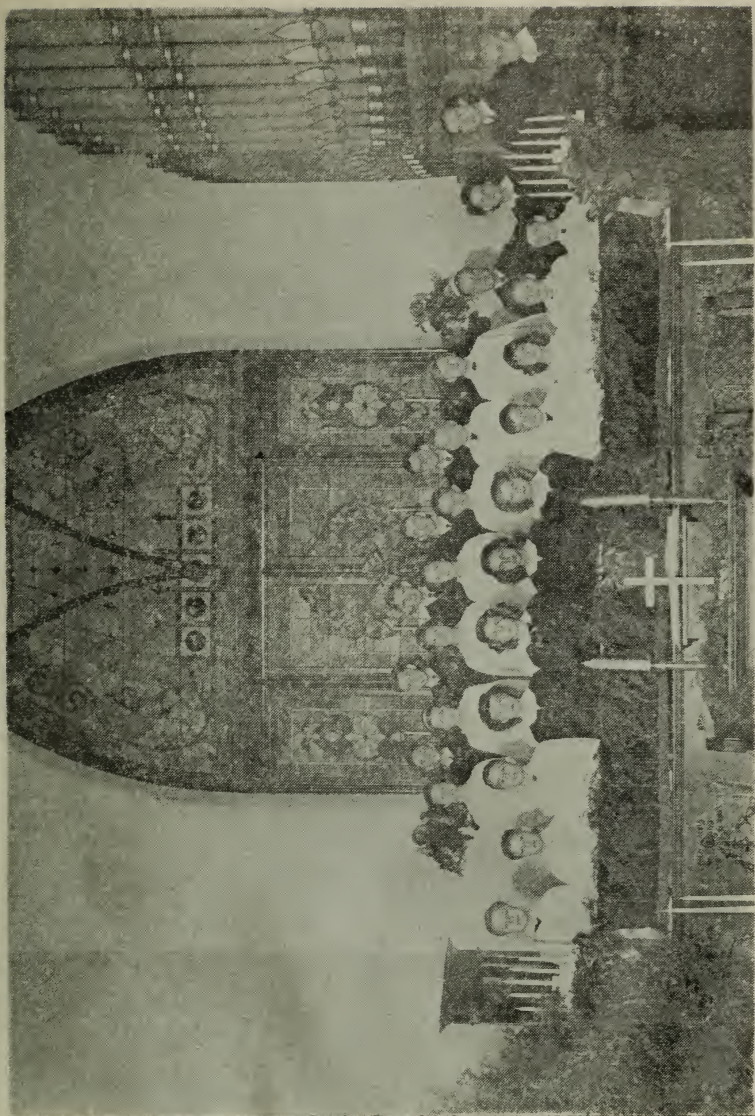
During the recent war years, owing to the fact that so many young men of the church were in service, it was difficult to maintain a choir, so very logically attention was turned to younger members of the church and church school for talent with splendid results. However, the condition was not new since it was the same as during World War I, when most of the choir members were students in Union Academy.

So, as of today, there is a Senior, a Junior, and an Angel choir with results that are remarkably pleasing, due to the efforts of Mrs. A. T. Ayers, organist, and Mr. Laurence Shaddrick, choir leader. Mrs. F. G. Anderson, who for several years gave much of her time and talent toward improving the music for the church, is now engaged in other departments.

The Senior Choir, of high school age, and the Junior Choir, of Junior High students, often appear as separate units. At other times, however, they are combined to form a festival choir.

They sing well, and with the assurance that comes naturally to youth. No doubt, future choirs will consist of men and women who today are a part of these youth choirs.

The Angel Choir, the latest to appear, is composed of those five to eight years of age, and is under the direction of Mrs. Ed Curtis. It was heard recently and no doubt will become a part of the musical program of the future together with the other choirs.



SENIOR AND JUNIOR CHOIRS



ANGEL CHOIR

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

That in the Primary Department of the Church School there are both third and fourth generations of Presbyterians?

That recently, when an architect well known in the middle west was a guest in the church, he inspected it both inside and out. After the inspection he asked this question of the member who was with him: "What did your church cost?" When told the cost was \$20,000 he replied, "You could not build it today for ten times that." What a wonderful bequest from those of forty-eight years ago, to the present and future congregations?

That the church and its affiliates have seen many go into other fields where they served the church faithfully and well?

That the Rev. Wallace S. Faris and Mrs. Faris (Miss Ellen Asper), the Rev. Paul Faris and Mrs. Faris, Miss Sarah Faris and Miss Margaret Faris were for many years in the Foreign Mission field?

That Mrs. Emma Bailey and Miss Gertrude Whiteman as Home Missionaries taught in Indian and Mormon schools in the west and in Honolulu?

That Mr. H. E. Lufkin, church school superintendent for some time, was later together with Mrs. Lufkin, engaged in Sabbath School work in other states, including Maine and Arkansas, and later he was engaged in Y. M. C. A. work?

That Oliver Alden was organist for forty years, and served on the Board of Elders for half as long, and that there are members on the present board who have served more than 25 years?

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

That the Rev. John T. Faris was ordained in the local church, served in other churches as pastor, and later became an editor for the Board of Christian Education. For the past several years Dr. Faris has traveled much, and has given many lecture courses in colleges and schools?

That the Rev. Paul Faris and Mrs. Faris were missionaries in China for more than ten years, where Mr. Faris was principal of an academy. After returning to this country he became an editor of church publications?

That while the Rev. August Reischauer was never a member of this church, he graduated from Union Academy, and later secured his college degree at Han-over College? These influences no doubt, caused him to become identified with Presbyterian Missions. Dr. Reischauer is an international figure in the mission field, and before the recent war he was a lecturer in a Japanese Theological Seminary.

That the church has been unusually blessed in that so many strong and faithful men have served as pastors?

That Dr. E. V. Hale has served the church as Treasurer for more than forty years?

That since service to one's church cannot be measured in years alone, there are many others whose names have been so woven into the church that time will never erase them?

I PRESS FORWARD TOWARD THE MARK . . .

Now in its eighty-first year, the church seems to be in excellent hands, and its several departments (see a succeeding page) are getting results that are most remarkable.

Since the arrival September 3, 1945, of the Rev. Joseph R. Laughlin and Mrs. Laughlin, and in order that the local church should keep pace with Presbyterian movements, a number of changes have gone into effect with splendid results.

A Board of Deacons consisting of eight active young men has again been installed. They act as ushers, handle the offering, see that the congregation is comfortable, are cordial to all, besides the other duties of such a board.

The Westminster Fellowship plan is in operation for the young people and their enthusiasm is shown in the marked increase in attendance (one hundred ten on July 7th) in the Church School.

Other activities are: Teachers Training Courses, held in the fall and spring months, and a Family Night once each month with a covered dish meal and interesting programs.

The result of these and other interests is shown in the attendance figures.

Morning Worship Service has averaged one hundred forty for the past ten months, with a high of two hundred fifty.

Church School attendance has more than doubled in the same time with a high on Easter Sunday of one hundred eleven.

FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING . . .

The Church School, in the able hands of Mr. O. K. Loomis and an excellent staff of teachers, has shown interest and quick response to such changes as have been instituted. Worship Service instead of the former "opening exercises," when on succeeding Sundays different classes are privileged to conduct this service. This gives individuals the opportunity to learn about themselves and realize that they are entities and not mere cogs in a wheel.

The Men's Bible Class recently reported an attendance of seventeen, and the Woman's Bible Class with ten to twelve present each Sunday, make up an informed and interested group.

The Primary Department has more than 30 members, and with a number of young mothers in charge, these little tots are in safe and intelligent hands.

Early this year the church membership roll was carefully scanned, with the result that fifty-four names were placed on the reserve roll, reducing the former reported membership from over three hundred to two hundred fifty. However, additions since have increased that number until the present membership is two hundred seventy.

The results of the above, and other changes is shown in the increase in both interest and attendance. There have been many times when the church doors were open and the building used every day of the week.

All this is well and as should be, and the result is a better and more useful church.

"PRESSING FORWARD!" IS THE GOAL FOR
THE FUTURE

YOUR CHURCH INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
IN ITS PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Every Sunday:

Church School, 9:30.
Men's Bible Class, 9:30.
Worship Service, 10:45.
Junior High Group, 3:30.
Westminster Fellowship, 6:00.

Choirs:

Senior Choir.
Junior Choir.
Angel Choir.

Men's Club:

Second Monday night of each month.

Women's Groups:

Women's Association, second Wednesday.
Guild, first Tuesday.

Family Night:

Third Monday night of each month.

Official Boards:

Session (Elders), third Tuesday night.
Trustees, first Thursday night.
Deacons.

Church School Council

Teacher's Training Course:

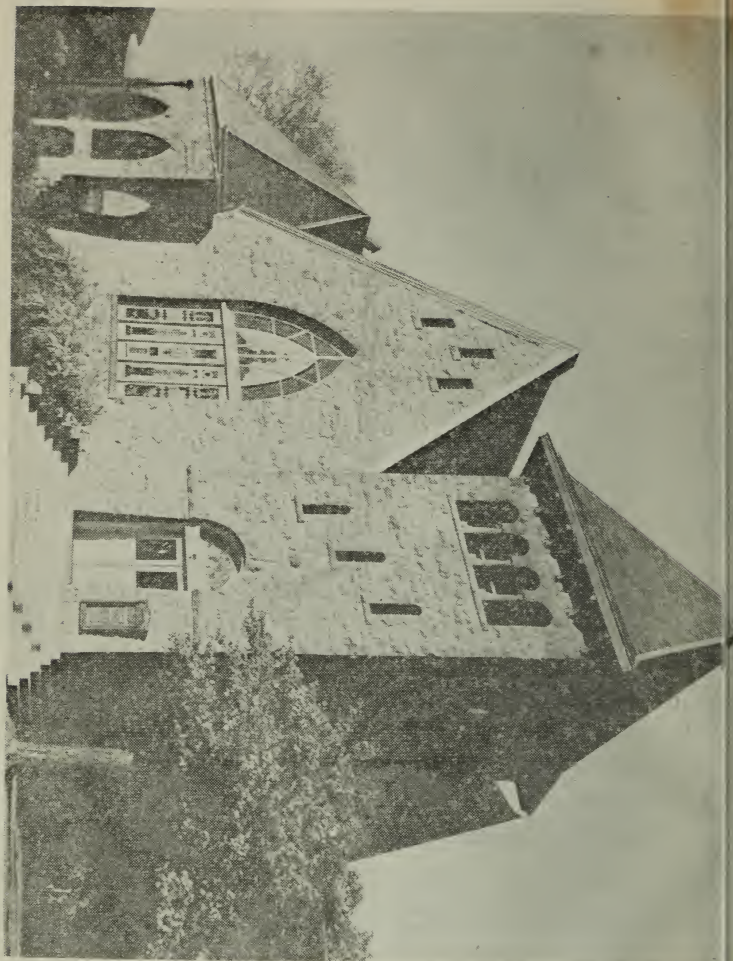
Held in the fall and spring.

Communicant's Class:

Held in the spring.

Vacation School:

Held in the summer months. Had an attendance recently of more than fifty interested young people.



Completed in 1898

JOHN AND HIS CHURCH AND THE BELL

Along the side of a country road
The village for years has stood,
The houses are few and none too new,
But the people seem loath to move.

On the hillside above in a maple grove
Where the villagers love to dwell,
In its dress of white, and trimmed so bright
There stands the church with its bell.

And further above in another grove
There are the little green mounds,
Where the stones stand white in the soft light
As a guard o'er the burying grounds.

John came to the village years ago
And worked for those whom he knew,
Then high on the hill where 'tis peaceful and still
He bought his acres few.

Whenever John had some hours to spare
He would always be seen by some,
To be working hard in his little yard
For John was building a home.

Many months had gone by ere he could stop
And view his house with pride.
And then one day John went away
And returned with Mary his bride.

None seem to know just when it occurred
They began giving their time so well,
But the members would beam when the church was so clean
And John always rang the bell.

Came the close of each year and Christmas time
When the story of Christ they would tell,
And then the New Year would soon appear
And that night he would ring the bell.

So the hour came that year when John arose
Knowing well that the time was near,
And out in the night with his lantern alight
When to welcome another New Year.

When John reached the church the hour was not yet
So he sat down in a chair,
When the hand of death touched him on the chest
And he was found sleeping there.

The hands on the clock had moved far apart
And the bell knew something was wrong,
For never before in the days of yore
Had John ever waited so long.

Then a shudder ran through the frame and the bell
And the clapper swung far and near,
And far and wide o'er the country side
The bell rang strong and clear.

Friends carried John to the top of the hill
And laid him gently away,
In his little plot in the burial lot
To awake another day.

You should stop at the village some day
And hear the strange tales they will tell,
But the last no doubt will be about
John and his church and his bell.

—W. C. M.

A TRIBUTE

The above poem was written, not as a tribute to one or two persons, but rather to those wherever the church is found, who are loyal and faithful to that church, and who give of what they have so that the church will always carry on.

58 Dec
12



11